

### **District Court Self-Help Assistance Program**

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Clerk of Court, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago (“LAF”), Chicago Bar Foundation and Illinois Legal Aid Online, have partnered together since 2006 to provide the District Court Self-Help Assistance Program, a free limited legal assistance program for *pro se* litigants. Through increased staff and volunteer support, the program now is able to provide *pro se* litigants with limited legal assistance most days that the Court is open.

*Pro se* litigants who have filed a case, are considering filing a case, or have been sued in a case in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, can meet with an LAF attorney or attorney volunteer and receive free limited assistance with regard to their legal matters. Through the program, attorneys can provide *pro se* litigants with information about federal court procedure, assist in preparing certain pleadings, motions, or other court documents, assist in accessing free or low-cost sources of information and make referrals to other providers of civil legal services or to social service agencies.

Assistance through the program is limited, and program attorneys will not research or write court documents for *pro se* litigants, conduct any investigation into the facts of a litigant’s case, or negotiate with a litigant’s opponent or opponent’s attorney. A program attorney also might decline to assist a *pro se* litigant if the *pro se* litigant’s legal problem is beyond the scope of the District Court Self-Help Assistance Program or if in the attorney’s view, giving advice would conflict with any provision of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

Services are in-person and by appointment only. To make an appointment to meet with a program attorney, please contact the Intake Desk of the Clerk’s Office at (312) 435-5691.